

**What is Claimed Is:**

1. A method for processing image data, comprising:  
obtaining image data;  
automatically processing the image data using a set of directives to identify a target  
5 object in the image data and process the image data according to a specified protocol; and  
automatically generating one or more images of the target object based on one or  
more of the directives; and  
storing the one or more generated images in a digital archive.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the image data comprises DICOM-formatted  
image data.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein automatically processing the image data using  
a set of directives comprises processing meta-data in DICOM fields to identify the target  
15 object .

4. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically processing the image data  
comprises segmenting the target object using processing parameters specified by one or more  
of the directives.

20 5. An imaging system, comprising:  
an image processing module for automatically processing image data using a set of  
directives to identify a target object in the image data and process the image data according to  
a specified protocol; and  
25 a rendering module for automatically generating one or more images of the target  
object based on one or more of the directives; and  
a digital archive for storing the one or more generated images.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the image data comprises DICOM-formatted  
30 image data.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the imaging processing module extracts and processes meta-data in DICOM fields of the image data to identify the target object .

5 8. The system of claim 5, wherein the image processing module directs a segmentation module to segment the target object using processing parameters specified by one or more of the directives.